

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 106065 TOSEC 040130
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:DPSULLIVAN:PAW:KA
APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE
EA/PHL:BAFLECK
EA:RBOAKLEY
D/HA:MSCHNEIDER
H:ASWIFT (INFO COPY)
S/S:RPERITO

-----100325Z 106903 /63

O 100246Z MAY 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE
INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 106065 TOSEC 040130

EXDIS;MANILA FOR DCM FROM HOLBROOKE;SEC PARTY FOR SPIEGEL/CV

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: TRINIDAD HERRERA

REFS: A. MANILA 6931, B. MANILA 5898, C. STATE 103902

1. UNLESS YOU PERCEIVE OVERRIDING REASON FOR DELAY WHICH NOT APPARENT HERE, SUCH AS ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY THAT THE REPORT IS FALSE, YOU SHOULD ARRANGE TO HAVE FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE FROM ME REACH PRESIDENT MARCOS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION AND JUDGMENT WHETHER DIRECT CALL OR USE OF INTERMEDIARY OF YOUR CHOICE WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF TRANSMISSION, REALIZING THAT TWO OF MOST LOGICAL POSSIBLE INTERMEDIARIES, ROMULO AND MENDOZA, ARE
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CURRENTLY OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

2. THRUST OF MESSAGE IS THAT REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED THAT MRS. TRINIDAD HERRERA, PRESIDENT OF ZONE ONE TONDO ORGANIZATION (ZOTO), IS BEING TORTURED AFTER BEING TAKEN INTO CUSTODY RECENTLY BY PHILIPPINE SECURITY FORCES. I SINCERELY HOPE THAT THESE REPORTS ARE ERRONEOUS AND THAT

MRS. ERRERA HAS NOT BEEN AND IS NOT BEING MALTREATED SINCE THIS WOULD BE TOTALLY OUT OF KEEPING WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS' PERSONAL ASSURANCES TO ME AND THROUGH ME TO PRESIDENT CARTER (PARA 8 E REF B) THAT HE WOULD TAKE STEPS

TO IMPROVE HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS. I STRONGLY HOPE THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE THIS MATTER LOOKED INTO IMMEDIATELY AND, IF MRS. HERRERA IS BEING MISTREATED, SEE THAT SUCH MALTREATMENT IS STOPPED AND THAT SHE IS PROVIDED WITH THE BEST POSSIBLE MEDICAL CARE. IF MRS. HERRERA WAS IN FACT BEING MALTREATED AND THIS SHOULD CONTINUE IT WOULD CAUSE VERY SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS IN U.S.-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS. THE REACTION IN THE UNITED STATES TO SUCH TREATMENT, PARTICULARLY OF SOMEONE SO WELL KNOWN FOR POPULAR LEADERSHIP AMONG THE POOR AS IS MRS. HERRERA, WOULD MAKE IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT FOR US TO WORK TOGETHER ON OTHER MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

3. IN THE CONTEXT OF DEMARCHE ON MRS. HERRERA, BUT SEPARATELY, YOU SHOULD TAKE UP THE BROADER QUESTION OF USE OF TORTURE AND SAFEHOUSES, A MATTER OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO AMERICANS AND ONE WHICH IS CENTRAL FEATURE OF MOST REPORTS ON PHILIPPINE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.

4. PLEASE REPORT SOONEST ON STEPS TAKEN AND RESULTS. THIS CASE COULD HAVE THE MOST SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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